

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01 ACDA-10 SAB-01

SAM-01 /127 W

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R 040057Z NOV 75

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3557

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UN, SS, OAU, AG

SUBJECT: SPANISH SAHARA

FOLLOWING ARE TEXTS OF LETTER FROM IDI AMIN, AS HEAD
OF OAU, AND REPLY FROM ALGERIAN PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE, CIR-
CULATED OCTOBER 31 AT ALGERIAN REQUEST, AS UN DOCUMENT:

QUOTE

MESSAGE ADDRESSED TO PRESIDENT HOUARI BOUMEDIENE BY
FIELD MARSHAL AL HADJI IDI AMIN DADA, PRESIDENT OF
UGANDA AND PRESIDENT OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN
UNITY

SOME VERY ALARMING NEWS HAS REACHED US CONCERNING THE
AGGRAVATION OF THE SITUATION IN YOUR AREA.

BEING FULLY AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE YOU ATTACH TO THIS
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SITUATION, OUT OF A CONCERN THAT IT SHOULD END IN A PEACEFUL

SETTLEMENT THAT WOULD TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE SAHARA UNDER SPANISH RULE, AND OF THE CONCERN OF THE COUNTRIES ADJOINING THAT TERRITORY THAT PEACE AND STABILITY SHOULD BE MAINTAINED IN THE REGION, I SHOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS TO YOUR EXCELLENCY MY PROFOUND DISQUIET, AND MY SINCERE WISH THAT THE TERRITORY MAY BE COMPLETELY DECOLONIZED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF THE CHARTER OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY.

IN THIS CONNEXION THE RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS OF THE OAU AND THE UNITED NATIONS PROVIDE THE MOST SUITABLE FRAMEWORK FOR A JUST AND EQUITABLE SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM.

KNOWING YOUR WHOLE-HEARTED COMMITMENT TO THE CAUSE OF COMPLETE DECONONIZATION OF ALL AREAS OF THE AFRICAN CONTINENT WHICH ARE STILL UNDER COLONIAL RULE, I AM SURE THAT YOU WILL SPARE NO EFFORT, IN CONSULTATION WITH ALL THE OTHER PARTIES CONCERNED, TO ARRIVE AT A SATISFACTORY SOLUTION BY PEACEFUL MEANS.

THIS DEDICATION, WHICH IS IN KEEPING WITH AFRICA'S NOBLEST TRADITIONS, WILL ENABLE US, I AM SURE, TO THWART THE MANOEUVRES OF THE ENEMIES OF AFRICA, WHOSE SOLE AIM IS TO UNDERMINE OUR DETERMINATION TO LIBERATE OUR CONTINENT AND TO CREATE NEW HOTBEDS OF TENSION AND CONFRONTATION BETWEEN PEOPLES LINKED BY A COMMON DESTINY. AS PRESIDENT OF THE OAU I AM CONVINCED THAT I AM EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND CONCERN OF OUR CONTINENT AND I HOPE THAT THIS APPEAL WILL BE HEADED.

IDI AMIN

PRESIDENT OF THE OAU

MESSAGE ADDRESSED BY PRESIDENT HOUARI BOUMEDIENE TO FIELD MARSHAL AL HADJI IDI AMIN DADA, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA AND PRESIDENT OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY

IT IS A MOST PLEASANT DUTY FOR ME TO EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE TO YOU FOR THE GOOD OFFICES YOU ARE USING WITH ALL THE PARTIES CONCERNED WITH AND INVOLVED IN THE DECONONIZATION OF THE SAHARA UNDER SPANISH DOMINATION, ACTING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE UNCLASSIFIED

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PRINCIPLES AND PERTINENT RESOLUTIONS OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY AND THE UNITED NATIONS.

YOUR LEGITIMATE CONCERN IS UNDOUBTEDLY SHARED BOTH BY THE LEADERS OF OUR CONTINENT AND BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE. FIRST, BECAUSE A PROBLEM OF DECOLONIZATION IS INVOLVED, AND SECONDLY BECAUSE THE MEANS OF ACHEIVING IT- NAMELY SELF-DETERMINATION - ARE AT STAKE, AND, LASTLY,

BECAUSE THE SITUATION RECENTLY CREATED BY UNILATERAL MEASURES
IS
CAPABLE OF DISTURBING PEACE AND SECURITY IN A SUFFICIENTLY
SENSITIVE PART OF AFRICA TO WARRANT THE URGENT CONVENING OF A
SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING TO SALVAGE THE REMAINING CHANCES OF PEACE.

THE POSITION OF ALGERIA, HAVING BEEN STATED CONSISTENTLY AND
FAITHFULLY FOR 10 YEARS, BOTH IN THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN
UNITY AND AT THE MEETINGS OF THE ISLAMIC AND NON-ALIGNED
COUNTRIES AND, OF COURSE, AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
THE UNITED NATIONS, WILL BE WELL KNOWN TO YOU.

IN VIEW OF THE PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES THAT ATTENDED ALGERIA'S
ATTAINMENT OF INDEPENDENCE, WE CANNOT BE INDIFFERENT EITHER TO
PROBLEMS OF DECONONIZATION WHEREVER THEY ARISE IN THE WORLD OR
TO THE MOST JUST AND EQUITABLE MEANS OF ACHIEVING IT, NAMELY:
SELF-DETERMINATION.

INDEED, AFTER EIGHT YEARS OF WAR, AND THE TOLL OF ONE AND A HALF
MILLION MARTYRS TAKEN AT THAT TIME, WE ACCEPTED THE PRINCIPLE OF
SELF-DETERMINATION WITHOUT PRELIMINARIES AND WITHOUT INTER-
NATIONAL GUARANTEES. SINCE 1960, WHEN THE UNITED
NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADOPTED RESOLUTION 1514 (XV) ON
DECONONIZATION MANY THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES AHVE BENEFITED
FROM THE PROPER APPLICATION OF THAT PRINCIPLE, WHICH NOW
MOST SATISFACTORILY ENABLES THEM TO MAKE THE VOICE OF THEIR
PEOPLES HEARD IN THE COMMUNITY OF NATIONS.

AFRICA, IN PARTICULAR, WHICH STILL HAS TO CONTEND WITH APARTHEID
AND RACIAL SEGREGATION IN NAMIBIA AS WELL AS IN SOUTH AFRICA
AND RHODESIA, HAS AN OBLIGATION TO DEFEND THAT PRINCIPLE
AS ONE OF MANKIND'S MOST SACRED ACQUISITIONS. OUR CONTINENT HAPPENED
TO INHERIT SUCH COMPLEX PROBLEMS FROM COLONIALISM THAT-
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AT THE TIME OF THE CAIRO SUMMIT IN 1961 - ITS LEADERS, IN
THEIR WISDOM, SAW FIT TO ESTABLISH THE PRINCIPLE OF THE INVIO-
LABILITY OF THE FRONTIERS INHERITED WITH THE
INDEPENDENCE OF EACH STATE.

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INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

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THIS APPROACH PROVED SO JUDICIOUS THAT, IN THE SAME YEAR AND IN THE SAME PLACE, THE NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES ADOPTED THIS PRINCIPLE WHICH, INCIDENTALLY, HAS SPARED OTHER REGIONS, AND PARTICULARLY LATIN AMERICA, MANY NEEDLESS DIFFICULTIES.

AS FAR AS THE ARAB WORLD IS CONCERNED, IT IS QUITE CLEAR THAT THE REPEATED ACTS OF AGGRESSION BY ISRAEL AGAINST MANY SISTER COUNTRIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST CANNOT JUSTIFY OUR TAKING AN ATTITUDE WHICH WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY FACILITATE ACCEPTANCE OF THE FALLACIOUS NOTION OF FLUCTUATING FRONTIERS AND WHICH WOULD IMMEDIATELY DEPRIVE THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE OF THE RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION WHICH HAS JUST BEEN RECOGNIZED AS THEIR DUE BY THE WORLD COMMUNITY AFTER HEROIC RESISTANCE AND A HEROIC STRUGGLE ON THEIR PART.

AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL, WE AND OUR BROTHERS OF MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA HAVE ALWAYS HARMONIZED OUR POSITIONS ALONG THESE LINES BOTH IN REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND IN ALL INTERNATIONAL BODIES.

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IN PARTICULAR, ON THE OCCASION OF THE TRIPARTITE SUMMIT CONFERENCES OF NOUADHIBOU ON 14 SEPTEMBER 1970 AND AGADIR ON 24 JULY 1973 WE ADOPTED COMMON POSITIONS WHICH WERE SO CLEAR AND SO FIRM THAT SPAIN AS THE ADMINISTERING

POWER WAS OBLIGED WITHOUT DELAY, EARLY IN 1974, SOLEMNLY TO INFORM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS OF ITS WILLINGNESS TO ORGANIZE A SELF-DETERMINATION REFERENDUM THAT WOULD ENABLE SPAIN, LIKE PORTUGAL, TO WITHDRAW FROM THE SAHARA WITH DIGNITY AND HONOUR.

DESIROUS OF BETTER CO-ORDINATING OUR ACTION WITH THAT OF OUR BROTHERS AND NEIGHBORS, IN THE LIGHT OF THE DETERMINATIVE ACTION OF AFRICA, THE THIRD WORLD AND ALL COUNTRIES DEDICATED TO PEACE AND FREEDOM, WE, LIKE MAURITANIA, ENDORSED THE MOROCCAN REQUEST THAT:

- (A) AN ADVISORY OPINION SHOULD BE OBTAINED FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE;
- (B) A MISSION OF INQUIRY OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF 24 ON DECONONIZATION SHOULD BE SENT TO WESTERN SAHARA AND THE OTHER COUNTRIES CONCERNED AND INTERESTED;
- (C) A CONSULTATION OF THE POPULATION OF THE TERRITORY UNDER SPANISH DOMINATION SHOULD BE HELD UNDER THE AUSPICES AND GUARANTEE OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

ALTHOUGH WE ARE NOT UNAWARE OF THE POSITIONS OF MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA IN THE MATTER OF TERRITORIAL CLAIMS AND ALTHOUGH ALGERIA, ON THE OTHER HAND, MAKES NO DEMANDS OR TERRITORIAL CLAIMS WITH RESPECT TO THIS REGION, WE ARE CONVINCED THAT THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY AND OF THE UNITED NATIONS, MAINLY GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS 1514 (XV) AND 3292 (XXIX), GUARANTEE THE SAHARAN PEOPLE THEIR INALIENABLE RIGHT TO MAKE A FREE AND GENUINE CHOICE AS TO THEIR FUTURE AND THEIR DESTINY, WITHOUT THEREBY PREJUDICING THE INTERESTS OF THE OTHER PARTIES CONCERNED AND INTERESTED. THIS IS A POSITION OF PRINCIPLE WHICH ALLOWS OF NO COMPROMISE, FOR IN ASSERTING THE ROLE WHICH THEY WISH TO PLAY IN THE DEMOCRATIZATION OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ALL THE COUNTRIES OF THE THIRD WORLD, INDEED ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, MUST ENSURE STRICT RESPECT FOR THE PRINCIPLES OF THE CHARTER AND PRINCIPALLY FOR

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THE RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION.

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS HAS SPARED NO EFFORT TO FUFILL AS FAITHFULLY AS POSSIBLE THE MISSION ENTRUSTED TO HIM BY SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 377 (1975) IN THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED AND INTERESTED WITH A VIEW TO PREVENTING ANY AGGRAVATION OF THE TENSION IN THE REGION, AVERTING ANY SITUATION CONSTITUTING A FAIT ACCOMPLI WHICH MIGHT CONSTITUTE A PRECEDENT FRAUGHT WITH CONSEQUENCES FOR MOST OF THE MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND RULING OUT ANY SOLUTION NOT STRICTLY IN CONFORMITY WITH UNITED NATIONS DOCTRINE AND THE RELEVANT RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE DECONONIZATION OF THE SO-CALLED SPANISH

SAHARA.

JUST AS WE HAVE ASSURED YOU OF OUR FAITHFUL CO-OPERATION, SO
WE BEG YOU TO ACCEPT THIS SOLEMN EXPRESSION OF OUR DESIRE
TO ACT WITH RESTRAINT AND MODERATION, TO REMAIN FAITHFUL TO
THE PRINCIPLES WHICH WE HAVE ALWAYS DEFENDED TOGETHER IN
THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY AND THE UNITED NATIONS, AND
TO REFUSE TO ASSOCIATE OURSELVES EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY
WITH A SETTLEMENT WHICH WOULD GO AGAINST THE WILL OF THE INTER-
NATIONAL COMMUNITY, MIGHT BE A THREAT TO ITS GAINS,
AND WOULD WEAKEN BOTH THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY AND THE
UNITED NATIONS.

IN SO DOING, WE SHALL ALWAYS BE AT THE DISPOSAL OF ALL
FRIENDLY AND FRATERNAL COUNTRIES TO WORK, TOGETHER WITH THEM, FOR
THE TRIUMPH OF THE CAUSE OF JUSTICE,
THE FREEDOM OF PEOPLES AND PEACE IN THE WORLD.

HOUARI BOUMEDIENE
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
REVOLUTION AND PRESIDENT OF THE
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF PEOPLE'S
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA

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